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NO. 4.

IS CONVERSION ALIEN TO THE SPIRIT OF HINDUISM?

Instances of Conversion and Reconversion

WHY THE PRACTICE WAS DISCONTINUED

By Dr. A. S. Altekar, M. A., LL. B., D. Litt.

THE belief current among the conservative sections of Hindu society is that conversion and even reconversion are against the true spirit of Hindu culture. Those, who are not born Hindus, can never enter into the Hindu fold. Those who have once left it, may be even under duress and can never be admitted back into it. The seventeenth century Pandits of Benares shared the same belief. "We do not at all maintain," said they to Bernier, "that Hinduism, though the best religion in the world, is intended for the whole of humanity. God has devised it only for us who are born as Hindus."

The Vedic and Epic Practice

The above opinion of the learned Pandits of Benares is however not supported by ancient tradition, history or scriptures. The gospel of the Vedic Aryans was to Aryanise the universe, and they acted up to it with all their might and main. A large number of non-Aryan tribes were Aryanised and assigned a definite place in Hinduism according to their cultural development. Nay, we find that the later day prejudice against the marriage with a non-Aryan bride was not shared by early Smriti writers. A number of epic heroes like Bhima and Arjuna are seen to have married non-Aryan brides like Hidimba and Ulupi. It is interesting to note that their action evokes not even a mild protest from venerable Vedavyasa; children of these unions were not denied admission to the Aryan fold.

Absorption Of Greek Invaders

From about the fourth cen-

tury B. C. a number of foreign tribes invaded India and settled down there. The Greeks, Scythians, the Parthians, the Kushanas, the Hunas were the chief among them. They have been all Hinduised and absorbed into Hindu society. During the Greek ascendancy in India at least 50,000 Greeks must have settled down in the country. Gradually they were all drawn in the capacious fold of Hinduism. One of their kings, the great Menander, is definitely known to have died a Buddhist; Plutarch tells us that cities in India vied for the honour of getting a share of his relics as they did for those of the Buddha. The last Greek king in India, Hermaes, is definitely described as a *thera* or Buddhist monk on his coins. Many of the most magnificent caves in western India owe their creation to the munificence of Greek Buddhists. It should not be, however, supposed that it was only Buddhism that opened its fold to foreigners. There is clear historical evidence to prove this. In the second century B. C. Antialkides, a Greek king of famous Takshasila, had sent an ambassador named Heliodorus to Vidisa, the capital of the Malva kingdom. An inscription discovered at the site of this old city states that this Heliodorus was a *paramabhagavata* or a great devotee of God Vishnu and had erected a Garudadhvaja in front of a temple of the deity he revered. There can therefore be no doubt that many Greek settlers were attracted by the Bhakti school

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THE ROMANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

How Methods of Treating were Discovered

By Cosmas, W. D. Alwines

(Hon. Secretary, The Jaffna Health Association)

IN selecting this topic for an article I feel I am treading on new ground—blazing a new trail, as the pioneer would put it. Romance in Public Health! What a queer combination! To the average man the subject is clothed in anything but Romance. Public Health, to vast majority of people, resolves itself into a number of "DO's and DON'Ts", perhaps some vital statistics about mortality rates and incidence of certain diseases, type plans and slum clearance etc. etc. There is Romance they say in Discovery, there is Romance in feats of Engineering, Romance in aeronautics, but no Romance in Public Health. Yet, I venture to say that one can be thrilled with the life and struggles of prominent Public Health workers, as much as one can be thrilled with the life of a great Discoverer or Aeronaut. The subject is of such interest, and the field is so vast, that one will need weeks to touch the fringe of the subject. However, within the short compass of this article, I shall deal very briefly with the life and struggles of two great Public Health heroes—Jenner, Pasteur. Certain episodes of their life read like a page of fiction.

A Milkmaid's Remark

Edward Jenner was born in the year 1749, at Sodbury. He studied Medicine under John Hunter, the father of modern surgery. When a medical student, he heard a village milkmaid remark. "I cannot take small-pox for I have had cow-pox." This set this young Medico thinking. At that time smallpox was, to use the words of Lord Macaulay, "the most terrible of all the ministers of death." It spared no one—Queen Mary, the wife of William III, died of the disease in 1694. There was a current saying in Germany that from smallpox and love few remain free. Jenner felt he had

stumbled on a discovery which was worth investigating. He did not dismiss that remark, as most men would do, with the remark "Nonsense". He did not feel that because it was a bit of folklore, it was unscientific and that it did not bear scrutiny. He mentioned the idea to his teacher John Hunter who advised him thus, "Do not think but try; be patient, be accurate." He settled down to practice as a physician but he did not forget the remark of that village girl and the advice of his teacher. In 1780 he felt he had made some progress, owing to various experiments. But he felt that he was not sure of his grounds and continued his experiments for another sixteen years. On May 14th 1796 Jenner made his first inoculation of cowpox on a boy eight years old named James Phipps. The lymph used was taken from the hand of a dairymaid named Sarah Nelmes. Some time later, about a month, the boy was inoculated with smallpox virus. The boy did not develop the disease. Two years later a second inoculation was given with the same result. Jenner did not meet with a favourable reception. He was opposed, misrepresented, caricatured. The press, the pulpit, the platform were used to sling mud at him. It was pointed out that those who were vaccinated would develop hours, or cow's head. Nothing daunted, Jenner persevered in making his discovery known. He vaccinated all the poor people who sought his aid. To prove that he believed in the efficacy of his discovery, he vaccinated his son three times. At Genoa there is a famous statue by Monteverde showing Jenner vaccinating his own son". Jenner opened the door to a new realm of remedies for diseases". The work of Pasteur, and Lister depended so much on the principle that Jenner had enunciated. In 1802 the

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Malayan Urumparay Union

19th Annual Meeting

The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Malayan Urumparay Union, Kuala Lumpur, was held on 29th. January, 1939, at the Thambusampillai Tamil School, Sentul, at 5.00 p.m.

Mr. R. Thampipillai, I. S. M., president, occupied the chair.

The Hon. Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting held on 24th. July, 1938 were read and confirmed.

Before the adoption of the Report and Statement of accounts the President briefly commented on the Report.

Membership

The members of the Union it would be seen from the Report, said the President, that at the end of 1937 they had in the register 136 members. In 1938 four new members were enrolled. The total number at the end of 1938 had been 140, but for the retirement from Government service of one member the number was reduced to 139. The strength of an Association was known by the strength of its membership and therefore he wished every member present to try and persuade the non members to join the Union.

The President told the members that although the financial position of the Union was not unsatisfactory, yet if all the members who were in arrears made an effort to pay up their dues their financial position would become very sound indeed.

Health Association.

In his comments about the Health Association at Urumparay the President informed the members that the Health Association at Urumparay apparently was doing excellent work in improving the Health and Sanitary conditions of the village. He stressed that the installation of dry-earth latrines in every house was very essential for the maintenance of health and sanitary conditions, and, therefore, the members should as far as possible interest themselves in seeing that their relatives at home were provided with dry-earth latrines. If necessary the members should try and give monetary assistance to relatives who could afford to provide one.

After commenting very briefly about the Chandrodaya Vidyasalai and destruction by fire of the Tamil Mixed School, the President thanked the members for the very valuable assistance they had given him. Mr. S. Rasiyah proposed and Mr. U. Chelliah seconded that the Report and Statement of accounts be passed. Carried.

Mr. P. Navaratnam wished to congratulate the Committee for this Report which showed a distinction from the previous Reports making particular reference to the subject of Health Association. Certain points raised by him were suitably answered by the President.

Office-bearers

The election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:

President: Mr. R. Thampi-

pillai, I. S. M.
Vice-President: Mr. G. A. Rasiyah.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. Krishnapillai.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. K. Ratnasingham.

Committee

Messrs S. Rasiyah, S. Kandiah, J. S. Kanapathypillai, V. Sabapathy, R. Kandiah, S. Thamboo and A. Swaminathan.

Hon. Auditors

Messrs S. Karthigasu and R. Subramaniam.

With a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting terminated at about 7-30 p.m.

Report

The following are extracts from the Report adopted by the Union:--

Home Advisory Committee

The Urumparay Union, Urumparay, continued to act as your Home Advisory Committee. The sincere thanks of the Committee are due to the Urumparay Union for their valuable advice and assistance.

Health Association

The Health Association of Urumparay seems to be doing excellent work. It is pleasing to note that the number of dry-earth latrines has been steadily increasing, the total number being now 94. In this connection the Committee of Management appeal to all members of the Union to advise their relatives at home without latrine installations to provide themselves with these as early as possible, and, if necessary, to give them monetary aid to instal latrines.

The Association reports that 21 poisonous snakes were destroyed during the year 1938 (May-November), and that Rs. 7.60 was paid as rewards.

The Association, through the able assistance of the Ceylon Urumparay Union, Colombo, has succeeded in securing the support of the Government for the appointment of a trained mid-wife for our Village. It is understood that the Government has promised to pay a half of the salary of the mid-wife, the other half is to be paid by the Ceylon Urumparay Union, and quarters for the mid-wife are to be provided by the Village itself.

Congratulating the Association on the excellent work that is being done by it to improve the sanitary and health conditions of the Village the Committee of Management would urge it (Health Association) to take all necessary preventive measures to improve upon or strengthen the resisting powers of the people of the Village so that they might become less susceptible to prevalent parasite diseases. During the past two or three years the Government of Ceylon has had the food stuffs consumed by the poorer classes chemically analysed and biologically assayed. Periodic lectures by qualified Health and Medical Officers and publication and free distribution of tracts on such health subjects as pure water supply, protective and energy-yielding foods, dietary deficiencies, dental decay, etc. would go a long way in educating the people to realise the value and importance of preventive medicine, and in reducing in the number of the present appalling infantile, adult and maternity mortality. The Malayan Urumparay Union will be ready to give the Health Association all necessary financial and

THE ROMANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

(Continued from page 1)

House of Commons voted Jenner a sum of £10,000, five years later a further grant of £20,000, while more than £7,000 were sent by admirers in India. The work of preventive medicine depends on the application of this principle and the scope of this principle is ever widening.

Pasteur's Great Discoveries

The life of Louis Pasteur is another absorbingly interesting story. His long life was one crowded with dramatic incidents. His biography, written by his son-in-law, Rene Vallery-Radot is a really thriller--to use a colloquial phrase. He was born in the town of Dole on December 27th 1822. At school he was supposed to be an ordinary boy, but before he was 26 he had obtained the most coveted prize, the ribbon of the Legion of Honour. The theory of spontaneous generation was holding the field at that time and many men believed it. To Pasteur belongs the credit of discovering, to use his own words, "the world of the infinitely small". He proved by experiments that only life can beget life. "The beautiful spectacle of the first creation" as he called it could not be reproduced by man. In 1864 he addressed a gathering of the elite of France at Sorbonne. He held in his hand a flask of easily decomposable liquid which he had kept sealed for years and which had remained unchanged. "It is dumb" he said "because I have kept it from the only thing man cannot produce, from the germs which float in the air, from Life, for Life is a germ and a germ is Life." Pasteur was thus able to help the cause of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. "In that hour the world of the infinitely small was revealed. The foe, hidden during all the ages had been discovered at last. Pasteur had entered alone, a new crusader, into the citadel of disease." In 1881 anthrax broke out among the cattle and farmers suffered severe losses. Earlier, Pasteur by his experiments and observations had saved the silk industry from extinction by a disease known as *pebrine*. Like a true soldier Pasteur planned out his campaign. He speedily identified the germ that caused anthrax. He had observed in his experiments that cultures of the germs of anthrax, when exposed to the air, lost their virulence. Following the principle enunciated by a Jenner, he began to prepare a vaccine which would render the bodies of sheep and oxen as immune to anthrax, as people were from small pox by vaccination. A veterinary surgeon Monsieur Rosigol scoffed at the idea and wrote about it in a paper as follows: "The microbe is eternally true, and Pasteur is

moral support in its endeavour to promote the health and sanitary conditions of the Village.

Flood-outlets

The Committee are glad to report that they have received information from Mr. S. Natesan M. S. C. that the Government have included provision for Rs. 11,600 for flood-outlet for Urumparay in the supply bill proposals for 1938-1939. It is the Committee's prayer that our Village will very soon be free from dangers of flood.

its prophet." Pasteur accepted a challenge to prove that he was right. The Agricultural Society of Melun placed at his disposal sixty sheep and ten cows. Twenty-five sheep were inoculated with mild anthrax cultures twice. Then all fifty were given an inoculation of virulent anthrax culture. Ten sheep were kept as controls. Of the cows six were to be given two inoculations, and four, one inoculation, with a virulent culture. Pasteur was bold enough to make this prediction: "The twenty-five unvaccinated sheep will all perish, the twenty-five vaccinated sheep will survive. It will be the same with the cows." This prediction was made on May 5th 1881. The conclusion of the experiment was to be on June 2nd, and it is reported as one of the most dramatic incidents in the history of science. Rosignol, his opponent writing in 'La Presse Veterinaire' reminded Pasteur that 'the Tarpeienne rock was near the Capitol.' If he succeeded it was well and good. If he failed, it was the death-blow to his fame as a scientist. June 2nd was a famous day in the life of Pasteur. There assembled at the farm of Pouilly-le Fort where the experiment was being carried on, newspaper men and scientists, professors and students, farmers and delegates from Medical societies. When Pasteur reached the farm he was greeted with rounds of applause. There were the bodies of 22 sheep that had not been inoculated. The other three were dying. All the sheep that had received treatment were alive and well. The cows that had been vaccinated were browsing peacefully. Those that had received no treatment were swollen up. Pasteur had proved his case to the hilt.

Hydrophobia

Great as this piece of work was, Pasteur is remembered more by his work on hydrophobia—rabies. Prior to that there was no cure known for rabies. Those who were bitten by a mad dog died a most painful death. Pasteur tried to isolate the specific microbe, but failed. It was ultra-microscopic, Pasteur made emulsions of the brain or spinal cord of rabid animals and found that in every case when this emulsion was inoculated hydrophobia occurred. He then weakened the cultures thus enabling him to render dogs that were bitten by rabid animals, immune. Pasteur believed that if a human being bitten by a rabid dog was inoculated with increasing strengths of the virus, his blood would produce substances which would enable that person to resist the onset of rabies. But how was he to prove his theory? He could not try his experiments on human beings, as he had done with animals. The opportunity however came when an Alsatian boy named Joseph Meister was brought to his laboratory after he had been bitten by a mad dog. Pasteur determined to test his theory. He inoculated the boy twelve times. The treatment was successful, the boy recovered. One wonders what would have happened to Pasteur had the boy died, even of rabies. Pasteur was not a doctor. He was a chemist. In his biography Pasteur is represented as having spent many a sleepless night during the period of the experiment, which lasted ten days. Pasteur's method

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OUR INDIAN LETTER

BOSE'S BUGLE CALL

No Rubbing Shoulders With Imperialism

(By Lanka)

Madras, 9th April 1939

AMONG the minor discomforts of Congressmen in this land of sacrifice and satyagraha is the necessity for the orthodox among them to keep within the limits and taboos of the tribe. Early in the hectic days of the severe encounters with the powers-that-be the High Command had ruled that Congressmen should not mix with those who supported the Imperialist power. In the days of the Dandi march this rigour was at its highest, and Congressmen almost developed a hatred for the Imperialist whoever he might have been, though some of those who had cultivated friendly relationship with that excluded tribe felt the taboo rather irksome.

Even after office acceptance the ban on social gatherings remained, though quite a good few of those who entered the legislatures imagined that council entry gave freedom of entree to social parties. Mahatma Gandhi was firm, and perhaps it was the fear of the constant proximity of Congressmen in office and the official class leading to looseness, that made many orthodox Congressmen to advise against office acceptance. The fight was to be kept alive, for it might have to be resumed any minute, and it would not do for the nation's soldiers to be finding in the drawing rooms of the charmers while the bugle call sounded from Swaraj Bhavan.

The recent re-iteration by President Bose of the strict necessity for Congressmen to avoid social contacts with Imperialism and its adherents became necessary in view of the likelihood of many Congress councilors who have made no secret of their feeling the ban as rather irksome, completely giving the go-by to the restriction. Among the very high-placed in the Congress government are personages whose social relationship puts a very severe burden on their attitude towards friend and foe alike. One of the Madras ministers is a steward in the Madras Race Club, and he is skating on thin ice whenever questions affecting his place come up. Two others were recently hauled over the coals because they, inadvertently, presented themselves at the Proclamation Parade on New Year's day and unconsciously saluted or semi-consciously saluted the flag of British Imperialism. Bose has alluded to these things in his circular. The path of Congressmen is strewn with thorns in ordinary times; now, in office, they have barbed wire on all sides. Perhaps it were better thus.

Universities Condemned

You have heard of the readiness of Indians to pass literary examinations. Last year for selection to the I. C. S. examinations 560 candidates applied and 392 only appeared. The officers in charge of the examination characterise the performance of these examinees as a serious indictment of university education in India and urge the need for some

machinery to weed out the many unsuitable candidates at an early stage.

India's Place in Malaya

AN archaeologist and Field Director of the Greater India Research Committee who some time ago carried on excavations in Malaya in quest of relics of early Indian civilization and colonisation, has stated that he found more than 30 Indian temples and a number of palaces, all of the Pallava style, which showed that Indian settlers colonised Malaya between the 4th and 8th centuries A. D. Will this reconcile the Malayan government and the Malays to the need for a place in the Malayan sun for Indians?

Under the Country's Cross-Fire

CONGRESSMEN are generally at a discount these days, what with trade depression, failure of the monsoon, threatening famine, and with it all the threat of additional taxation. Government, though Congress in its nature, must be carried on, and it cannot be done without money. They are sacrificing the bulk of the country's revenue by embarking on prohibition. This has cut a very big hole in the pocket of government. New taxes have been and are to be levied, and the enemies of Congress step in to curse Congress and its ways. People who pay or are compelled to pay taxes are easily enraged against Congress by the machinations of anti-Congress agitators. But Congress Governments have generally set a very difficult standard since they took up office, so that the disgruntled persons will not dare to go near office again for fear of being thrown out in a trice as incompetent. But they can cry themselves hoarse from a distance, and they do this so well now, and quite big crowds are ready to cheer them. It is difficult to make these people realise that Prohibition has lightened the burden of the majority of the population and made the poor hope for a better life. Congress chiefs may say what they can but people are slow to believe that they are on the threshold of salvation.

(Continued from Col. 4)

warning against such a shortsighted policy. With the cultural re-awakening of the country the arts and crafts, indigenous to the Island, should be given pride of place and teachers of arts and crafts should be encouraged and not cramped in their work.

"It will never be possible to repair damage done. Overseas scholarships in the arts, both Western and Oriental, have recently been instituted by the Ministry of Education.

"But wherein, one asks, will the value lie when the soil for the reaping of the benefits of such good work has not been suitably repaired in the schools of the Island by the teachers of arts and crafts."

"A SHORTSIGHTED POLICY"

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF TEACHER'S SALARIES

RETRENCHMENT PROPOSALS CONDEMNED

Galle, Tuesday.

PROPOSALS of the Retrenchment Commission on education were severely criticised at the eleventh annual general meeting of the South Ceylon Art Society, held yesterday evening at "Samudrasiri," Galle, the residence of Mr. H. de S. Kularatne.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya suggested that they should agitate for more and more scholarships for art and deplored the lack of State interest in art. He also referred to the "half-hearted" manner in which art and kindred subjects were taught at the Govern-

ment Technical College.

The Rev. W. E. Botejue (President of the Society) presided and Mr. F. S. Ponnampereuma, the honorary secretary, in presenting his report, said:—

"The Retrenchment Commission have just made far-reaching recommendations for drastic curtailment of the expenditure on education which the Government complains has been steadily rising out of all proportion to the general revenue of the country. Although the scheme will eventually reduce the educational cost to the Government by 80 per cent. there is very little else to recommend it to educationalists and parents.

"The future, recruits to the teaching profession, however high their attainments may be, will be paid Rs. 50 a month. From the point of view of arts and crafts one wonders whether such paltry remuneration will attract well qualified and the most suitable young men, of whom there are incidentally so few in the country, for such work in schools.

"Short-Sighted Policy"

"One cannot but utter a note of (Continued on Col. 2)

THE

"HINDU ORGAN" GOLDEN JUBILEE FUND

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NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

The Offices of the "Hindu Organ" and the Saiva Prakasa Press will be closed from the afternoon on April 13th to 19th for the New Year.

The next issue of the paper will be on April 24th.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1939

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR

THE YEAR THAT ENDS TODAY may well be called eventful. It opened on a hopeful world, marking the end of the depression and the beginning of the recovery. While it has brought in its train economic prosperity, it also leaves behind a legacy of international passions and conflicts, which continue to shake the world to its foundations. Nations, aggressive and pacific alike, have been arming themselves to the teeth with the result that they have adopted the pre-war maxim: "If you wish for peace, prepare for war". The acute tension and the sense of insecurity in the world today are largely due to the actions and attitude of the Dictator states, which have to their advantage learnt to pin their faith on their armed might. The long-drawn Spanish War has ended to the relief of all Europe. General Franco's victory is, indeed, a victory to the Fascist bloc; and it has certainly given a fillip to the unbridled ambitions of the Axis partners. The conquest of Czechoslovakia and of Albania is at once a proof and an illustration of this monstrous fact. The Sino-Japanese War still continues, perpetrating untold barbarities and atrocities on a heroic people who dared to fight the aggressor in defence of their hearths and homes. The world is today witnessing the old old conflict between the forces of democracy and progress and those of autocracy and reaction. Peace-loving persons and peoples everywhere are therefore on the tenterhooks of suspense and dismay. It must be admitted that the world horizon which is today so gloomy and menacing is not without a silver lining. The very nations that are piling armaments upon armaments are themselves nervous of war. They have had in the Spanish War and in the Far-Eastern conflict a practical demonstration of the havoc

that could be wrought upon victors and vanquished alike by well-equipped aircraft. The nations that are intoxicated with greed and pride may yet learn that the engines of destruction invented by the genius of man will ultimately tend to the extinction of civilization. Let us therefore hope that out of evil will come good.

The year began in this country on a note of halting optimism due to a slight fall in the prices of its staple products. They have, however, shown a steady recovery in the course of the year. Notwithstanding the increased quota, tea has shown a good profit. But coconut is bound to decline unless Indo-Ceylon relations are restored to the old order of mutual helpfulness and understanding. It is a pity that certain actions and utterances of our politicians and Ministers in regard to Indians in Ceylon may result in a considerable loss to coconut producers in this country, not to speak of other repercussions that will follow in the wake of strained relations between India and Ceylon. It is to be hoped that in this matter better counsels will prevail in both countries.

In the political sphere this year is indeed eventful. It has witnessed the peak of inter-communal passions and prejudices consequent upon the proposals for the reform of the Constitution. The people have lived to learn that, with all the safeguards ingeniously devised by the Donoughmore Commissioners, the Constitution could be worked in a manner least anticipated by its authors. The result has been the unedifying spectacle of the conflict between the majority community and the minorities in regard to the question of constitutional reforms. The debate on the Governor's Despatch in the State Council, which is yet dragging its weary length, is at once a proof of inter-communal disensions and distrust and a testimony to the woeful lack of thoughtful leadership and statesmanship in the country. Our Councillors and politicians have so far failed to arrive at an agreed scheme of reforms which could be pressed upon the authorities with the united voice of the country. The fact is that, amidst the currents and cross-currents generated by communal and sectional prejudices and predilections, the best interests of the country run the risk of being thrown overboard. The imperative need of the country is therefore inter-communal harmony and good-will on which depends the future of this fair Isle of ours. The New Year that is dawning tomorrow is as much the Tamil as it is the Sinhalese New Year. May the New Year usher in an era of communal harmony and good-will contributing to the progress and prosperity of this country, is our prayerful wish.

"Pleasantest Time" in Jaffna

S. Indian Students' visit to the North

The party of about one hundred and twenty-five students and teachers, from the Srirangam High School, South India, who were touring Ceylon, arrived in Jaffna on Monday at 11.30 a.m. and were received at the Jaffna Station by teachers and students of the Jaffna Hindu College. The party which was headed by Mr. S. K. Matrubhutam B. A., L. T., Headmaster of the school, included Mr. K. V. Srinivasa Ayengar, M. L. C., and Mrs. Srinivasan Ayengar, Srimathi Ranganayaki Ammal, a regular contributor under the pen-name "Kumuthini" to the Tamil magazines, "Ananda Vikatan" and "Kalai Magal", a medical officer, an Engineer, lady teachers and girls.

The party were the guests of the College and their stay was made as pleasant as possible. In the afternoon on Monday the tourists played a football match against the College eleven, and they gave a good account of themselves. The match ended in a draw. In the early hours on Tuesday morning the party visited Keerimalai and bathed in the springs. Returning they met the College cricket eleven at a match and were defeated. A volley-ball match was played in the afternoon in which they again lost. The party were then given an exhibition of wrestling by the college students.

A group photograph of the tourists with the Hon. Sir Waitialingam Duraiswamy, the Manager of the College, as central figure, was taken.

Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, expressed great pleasure at having had the opportunity and privilege of having had their brethren as guests who gave them a most enjoyable and happy time.

Sir Waitialingam speaking next referred to his stay at Trichinopoly many years ago before most of those present there were not even born and to his recollections of Srirangam, a land flowing with milk and honey. He saw no difference between his people and the Indians. He hoped that their stay in Jaffna, was made as convenient as possible and that they would carry away happy memories of the Island. He wished them all success and a safe and happy return to India.

Pandit V. T. Sambandhan referred to the ties that existed between S. India and Jaffna and said that despite the agitation among the Sinhalese against Indians, they in Jaffna could never be alienated from their mother country.

Mr. S. K. Matrubhutam, thanked the Speaker, the principal and staff of the College, the Treasurer, and the Managing Committee and the students, for the most kind reception and treatment accorded to them. They had a very pleasant time during their tour in the various parts of the Island, and the pleasantest time they had was in Jaffna. As Indians they were proud that an Indian was the Speaker of the State Council.

The happy memories of their visit to Jaffna could never be erased from their hearts and they

Teachers to Study Sinhalese and Tamil

Minister's Proposal Being Considered

Colombo, April 11.

It is learned that the Minister of Education has placed before his Executive Committee for consideration a proposal that Sinhalese teachers should be afforded facilities to study Tamil and that Tamil teachers should similarly be provided facilities to study Sinhalese.

The proposal has been taken up as the result of a suggestion which was made by a member during the Committee stage of the last Budget debate.

If the Executive Committee accepts the suggestion the Departmental authorities will be asked to devise means of giving effect to it.

Removing Barriers

The idea underlying the proposal is to encourage the spread of a knowledge among the people of the country of both the main vernacular languages.

It is thought that if in the first instance the teachers themselves are given the opportunity of acquiring a fair knowledge of the local language which is not their own mother tongue it would be possible in due course to introduce the teaching of Tamil in Sinhalese schools and of Sinhalese in Tamil schools.

The ultimate aim behind the proposal is to remove the language barrier between the two main communities.

ROYAL COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Appointment of Mr. E. L. Bradby

Mr. E. L. Bradby, who is at present in charge of a students' organisation in Geneva, has it is understood, been appointed Principal of the Royal College.

Mr. Bradby holds high classical honours of the University of Oxford. He was on the tutorial staffs of several English High Schools.

At present he is in charge of a students' organisation in Geneva, and is under contract until the end of August. He wished then to take a holiday but as the Ceylon Government has asked him to come immediately, he is coming at the end of September.

WANTED

a respectable middle-aged lady as Companion - willing to go healthy outstation. Apply

X C/o "Hindu Organ"

(Mis. 11. 13.4-39.)

would be cherished not only by them but by generations to come. He earnestly appealed to the Principal to visit Srirangam next year with a party of students and teachers. He trusted they would respond to this invitation. He once again thanked them.

Three cheers were then called to the Sir Waitialingam, the College and the Srirangam High School which were enthusiastically given.

The party left for India at 8 p. m. on Tuesday

DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBANIA CAUSE APPREHENSION

Greece Fears Attack on Macedonia

ITALIAN RESERVISTS CALLED TO COLOURS

Britain Asked to Denounce Anglo-Italian Agreement

Tuesday.

THE developments in Albania, especially the news that the Italian Grenadier Guards have occupied Koritza, near the Grecian frontier, are causing considerable apprehension in Greece. The question is being asked in Athens whether the Italians intended to reach out towards the Near East and in particular, towards Macedonia.

Italy, says, Reuter, is watching jealously every word written about Corfu, the island off the western coast of Greece. Some circles in Rome threaten that if Corfu is occupied against Italy, she will march to Salonika. The Admiralty categorically denies the reports spread abroad that the Mediterranean Fleet has been concentrated at Corfu and along the Grecian coast line. The coastal and anti-aircraft defences of Malta were manned yesterday as a precautionary measure.

While the Yugoslav Government maintains a reserved attitude, public opinion has become suddenly embittered against Italy. During the holidays, anti-Italian demonstrations on a small scale occurred at Belgrade and Tskoplye.

It is pointed out in Yugoslavia that Italy could now close the Adriatic at will, leaving Salonika as Yugoslavia's only source of supply by sea, except for the circuitous route through the Bosphorous and up the Danube.

Rome Hopes For Note Of Protest Only

Various classes of Italian reservists, it is reported, were called to the colours yesterday to replace the troops sent to Albania. Most of these reservists, says Reuter, are reported to be of the 1912 class and it is stated that they have been called up for a brief duration. The number is unofficially given as 200,000.

The report that the British decision regarding Albania may be left to Parliament has aroused the hope in Italian political circles that Italy's action may be passed over with nothing stronger than a Diplomatic Note from London.

Following yesterday morning's meeting of the Cabinet, it was announced that both Houses of Parliament have been summoned to meet on Thursday. It is understood that a full Cabinet will meet again on Thursday morning before the re-assembly of Parliament which, it is assumed, will adjourn after dis-

cussing the Ministers' statements until April 18th, the date previously arranged for the end of the Easter recess.

Anglo-Italian Pact in Balance

London, Monday.

The Italian occupation of Albania is being treated in London as a very serious alteration of the European situation, says the Diplomatic Correspondent of the "Sunday Times."

One of the most serious consequences is the blow dealt to Italian good faith. The question arises whether the British Government should denounce the Anglo-Italian Agreement on the ground that it has been violated. Such a step would be taken in London with the greatest reluctance.

The more urgent matter is the maintenance of Greek and Turkish independence. Both countries are gravely perturbed by the Italian occupation, and by the concentration of Italian troops in Rhodes and other Dodecanese Islands.

Responsible quarters in London, the correspondent continues, are of the opinion that any attack against Greece would bring Britain to her assistance.

A Russian View

Moscow, Monday.

"Frightened by British diplomatic activity, the leaders of the Rome-Berlin Axis are especially anxious to dissuade Yugoslavia from participating in international guarantees," declares the newspaper "Izvestia", the Soviet Government organ, in an attack on the Italian action in Albania.

"Izvestia" proceeds to say that the events in Albania prove that an attempt to prevent aggression in only one place inevitably results in aggression elsewhere. The aggressors can be halted only by genuine collective security based on the thesis of the indivisibility of peace. Anything else can only be a palliative which cannot create security for nations.

Rome, April 10

Various cases of Reservists are reported to have been called to the Colours today to replace the troops sent to Albania. Most of these Reservists are reported to be of the 1912 class and it is stated that they have been called up for a brief duration.

The number is unofficially given as 200,000.

The report that the British decis-

FLOATING HOTEL WITH BAR CONVENIENCES?

How Bombay Would Evade Prohibition

Bombay, Monday.

A floating hotel on the high seas where all the conveniences that are available in a first-class bar will be provided, is the latest rumour about what would happen now that prohibition has come to the City.

The rumour originated in a film colony in the suburbs of Bombay. It spread fast till it became the subject matter of animated discussion among connoisseurs of drinks in the city's bar rooms.

Some of them rather reluctantly parted with their secrets about the hotels and its plans. Wine booths with faded light, magnificent dancing floor, open space for joy walking on the boat, are among the things that are attributed to the hotel.

One enthusiast summed up the situation. "In a word," he said, "everything has been meticulously arranged to provide lots of fun."

Inquiries in responsible circles, however, did not yield any result. Those firms who are alleged to have been interested in the scheme professed complete ignorance.

A manager of a very big firm when asked over the telephone about it kept mum for a second and then put it very crisply: "Are you pulling my leg?" Yet the enthusiasts insisted that he was the man who knew definitely about the scheme.

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Italy is watching jealously every word written about Corfu.

Some circles threaten that if Corfu is occupied against Italy, she will march to Salonika.

Yugoslavia Apprehensive

London, April 10.

The coastal and anti-aircraft defence of Malta were manned today as a precautionary measure.

It is learned that Greek newspapers tomorrow will publish the text of a statement in which the Italian Government guarantees the absolute integrity of Greece, according to an Athens despatch.

A message from Belgrade states that while the Yugoslav Government maintains a reserved attitude, public opinion has become suddenly embittered against Italy.

During the holidays anti-Italian demonstrations on a small scale occurred in Belgrade and Tskoplye.

It is pointed out that Italy now could close the Adriatic at will, leaving Salonika as Yugoslavia's only source of supply by sea except for the circuitous route through the Bosphorous and up the Danube.

AN APPEAL TO HINDUS

What the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai Proposes to Do

A drive to make Hindus better Hindus, to make Hindu institutions serve better their ideals and to take all other steps for the betterment and progress of the Hindu Community is being contemplated by the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai, Jaffna.

A manifesto has been issued by the Secretary of the Sabhai, giving the details of their plan of campaign. Criticisms and suggestions are being invited regarding them.

It is proposed to achieve their objects by the following methods.

(1) Affiliation of all existing Hindu associations to the Saiva Paripalana Sabha and the organisation of branch associations where there are none. Every Hindu family to be made a unit of the village branch association which will also have a volunteer corps; each volunteer to be in charge of a certain number of houses.

(2) The volunteer corps in each village to enlist the support of Hindu priests and learned men to disseminate among the masses, knowledge of religion, sanitation, economy, education and other subjects that would tend to the happiness of village life. Paid propagandists to be appointed to do this work.

(3) Training of Hindu preachers and volunteers, holding meetings, special classes for Hindu priests, publishing books, rendering financial aid to Hindu schools, teaching weaving and other handicrafts, opening reading rooms, entertaining visitors from other countries, looking after the destitute-organisations to carry out these objects to form one comprehensive central body, "Saiva Sevadan" to be established in a spacious ground, having in addition orphanages for men & women. The inmates of these orphanages to be taught such arts and crafts as would help them in their life.

(4) Making Hindu Temples, Schools and Madhams to work towards Hindu ideals.

(5) To convene an All-Ceylon Hindu Conference and to appoint committees to bring into being the various organisations necessary to achieve these objects.

The manifesto calls upon every Hindu to give serious thought to the suggestions and to help in the noble campaign the Sabha proposes to launch shortly.

HEAVY SHOWERS IN JAFFNA

Low-lying Areas Flooded

Jaffna is having heavy showers since Tuesday night. A strong wind accompanied by heavy showers followed last night. Many parts of the town and villages have been flooded. A large number of trees have been uprooted. Drizzling and the blowing still continue, and there is no likelihood of the weather clearing today.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RETRENCHMENT IN EDUCATION

Sir,—The recent developments in the field of education, chiefly the decision arrived at by the recently appointed Retrenchment Commission in regard to the grading of teachers and the raising of the quota for each teacher have completely upset the mental equilibrium of all those who are truly interested in the welfare of education in this country. Nobody can deny that there is need for some retrenchment at the present moment more than at any other time in whatever items of expenditure in which reduction can be made without endangering the vital interests of the country. Those who have been appointed for the most responsible and arduous task of devising ways and means of effecting retrenchment should not lose sight of the fact that they are expected not to do anything that may ultimately result in the removal of one evil through the introduction of a great evil, nor should they be a party to do anything calculated to upset the existing conditions, when there are more sensible and less harmful means of retrenchment.

The Minister of Education, who was at one time a great friend of the teachers and one who had the best interests of education at heart, has steadily become an enemy of the teachers, so much so that he is now rightly regarded as public enemy No. 1. Any retrenchment in the field of education should have his sanction and it is, therefore, incumbent on him to see that nothing prejudicial to the educational progress of this country is done by any responsible persons who may be prompted to bring about certain changes or introduce some injurious innovations without any foresight in order to save some money, regardless of the dire consequences. It is the duty of the Minister of Education, if he has any sense of responsibility in him, to consult the various teachers' associations in the Island, when there is a need for retrenchment and ask them directly and seriously to suggest a workable scheme, whereby the necessary saving in the ever-rising cost of education can be made, without undue interference with the true and steady advancement of education in this country. The teachers as a body look up to the Minister for protection and guidance in all matters connected with their status and prospects, and he should on no account betray them or be treacherous to them, however keenly the need for retrenchment may be felt by the powers that be.

What is even now considered to be a confidential scheme which has emanated from the fertile imagination of the Retrenchment Commission is, it is reported, very prejudicial to the educational welfare of the future generations of this country. It is also reported that if the scheme is enforced in its entirety, no intelligent persons will hereafter care to join the teaching pro-

feccion, nor will there be any substantial education imparted to the children of this country. There will naturally be third-rate teachers and the education imparted under the new conditions cannot but be sham in every sense of the term. The several anomalies in the details of the new scheme cannot be discussed in a short letter like this, nor is one justified to do it, before wide publicity is given to the recommendations of the commission. It is but proper that those who are to be affected adversely by a new scheme should be given every opportunity of pointing out the defects and suggesting suitable remedies that will be acceptable to at least the majority of those who are directly concerned. Education, anybody will readily admit, is one of the most important items on which the revenue of country should be liberally spent, so that the country may have worthy citizens who can guide its destinies in the right way under all circumstances.

Retrenchment may be had at any time, if the circumstances demand and justify it. It is only a legitimate desire on the part of those who are to be affected by the introduction of a newly formed scheme to ask for a chance of discussing the implications of the scheme, so that they may suggest certain acceptable methods of retrenchment, if what is proposed by the duly appointed Retrenchment Commission is found to be impracticable or unsatisfactory for any sound reasons. The Minister of Education should see to it that the different teachers' associations are given an opportunity of discussing the pros and cons of the scheme formulated by the Retrenchment Commission for effecting a saving in the cost of education. Unless this is done as speedily as possible, we can easily imagine what the bitterness of feeling of hundreds of teachers and thousands of parents is likely to be at a time when all the progressive countries are devising and employing the most up-to-date methods for their educational amelioration without which no country can boast of real progress.

Radical changes have certainly to be made sometimes, but they should not be brought about at the cost of something more important and absolutely essential for true advancement. May we hope that better sense will prevail among those who are keen on effecting an appreciable reduction in the cost of education in this country, so that they may use all their intelligence, knowledge and experience in the formulation of a workable scheme, whereby a considerable amount of money can be saved with the hearty co-operation of those engaged in the noble work of educating the youth of this country and without making the cause of education suffer unnecessarily?

SPECTATOR.

Tellippalai.
10-4-1939.

Elephant Menace at Minneriya

A Visit to the Scene

Having read in the papers recently several letters regarding the rogue elephant which had killed a Railway Labourer and a Korala of the Sinhala Pattu and also about the damage said to have been caused to crops in the Minneriya colony I paid a special visit to the Hinguratgoda Colonisation area and also to the scene of the disaster to the Korala in order to satisfy myself as to the actual conditions prevailing. I spent six days in the colony paying several visits to the various plots owned by villagers and saw for myself the vast damage that had been done. There is not the slightest doubt that certain crops had been entirely devastated. There is no exaggeration in the reports hitherto published. Every Colonist has been given five areas of land for paddy cultivation. The Irrigation Department supply the water. The Colonists have come from such distant areas as Kotmale, Sandalankawa, Kandy Colombo, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Patadumbara, etc. numbering 3000. By dint of hard labour they have this year raised rich crops. There are altogether about 800-900 acres under paddy and about 40 bushels per acre are expected. All this will not be reaped. Sambhu, pig, monkeys, millions of paddy birds and lastly elephants have done incalculable damage. Except for the monkeys and paddy birds the other animals come at night and carry on their destructive work. Some, not by any means all, the Colonists are armed with "Gas Pipe" muzzle loading guns, a very few possess Stevens or Belgian guns. These are useless against elephants. I saw one of these marauding elephants that had been killed. It had 5 festering and swollen wounds full of puss on parts of its body which were visible. There is a strong rumour that this is the elephant that killed the Korala and labourer. The villagers say that the wounds on the neck and head were the wounds caused by the three bus men from Matale who fired at this animal from the top of a swaying Palu tree. If it is the rogue all credit to the Deputy Warden and Mr. S. C. BasaRatnam who rid the area of the menace.

I saw some of the devastated plots. Some of them have a bare half acre of paddy left in them. The rest are entirely lost. I was in the area to see the damage caused overnight by another marauder. That elephant had devastated about one acre of land at one feed. What chance had these Colonists against such depredations. I cannot honestly see any harm in destroying these destructive elephants. The Colonists have scarcely any sleep. All night long they must watch and scare away the elephant, deer, and pig. During the day they must drive away the paddy birds. I happened to be at the Colonisation area when the Assistant Government Agent, N. C. P. (Mr. C. P. de Silva) was hearing complaints about damage to crops. He himself later visited the area and I believe he had already paid compensation. They have no rest and no relaxation.

A Kraal will cost a great deal of money. I spoke to one old man who knows something of Kraaling. He informed me that nearly 3000 men would be required. At cents fifty a day for payment, spread over

Ceylon Clay for India

Its Commercial Possibilities.

China clay (Kaolin) found in Ceylon is in great demand in India, and Mr. M. H. Kantawala, Ceylon Trade Commissioner in Bombay, has obtained several orders from Indian firms dealing in this commodity.

The industry in Ceylon is not yet on an organised scale and difficulty has been experienced in meeting requirements.

The Industries Department and one private firm sent samples of Ceylon Kaolin to the Imperial Institute for analysis.

The Institute after conducting exhaustive tests reported favourably as regards its commercial possibilities.

First in the Field.

One of the first persons in Ceylon to take advantage of the open market in India for Kaolin is Mr. A. Gnana Prakasham, Manager of the Coconut Board.

He has already executed several orders and has shipped more than a hundred tons during the last two months. The average price per ton in India ranges from Rs. 60 to 80.

Even at this figure there is a considerable margin of profit, it is stated.

Mr. Gnana Prakasham has struck upon a "veritable gold mine" of kaolin in his estate in Induruwa area in the Southern Province. The kaolin veins are found on the surface & it is dug out without much labour.

In India kaolin is used mainly for sizing textiles and in the manufacture of high class paper.

Apothecaries Appeal to Governor

Their Requests Turned Down

The Governor it is understood, has turned down almost all the proposals contained in the special memorial submitted to him by the Apothecaries' Association.

The Association, which has more than 400 members, asked the Governor, it is understood, to support them in their appeal for an increase in their wages, that they should be allowed to practise, after leaving Government service as dispensers, to appoint them as Registrars of Births and Deaths in the outstations, and to re-appoint a European as the head of the Medical Department.

Sir Andrew has, it is understood, stated unequivocally that he cannot accept any of the proposals made, and has written to the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services giving his reasons for this decision.

The question of appointing Apothecaries as Registrars of Births and Deaths in the outstations was referred, it is gathered, to the Registrar-General, who, it is stated, has reported that preference should, in all cases, be given to fully-qualified medical officers.

In the event of a qualified medical officer not being available, the post could then be offered to an apothecary. There are at present a few apothecaries who officiate as Registrars in certain small towns.

a period of about three months to complete the Kraal, the expense would be enormous. It is not justifiable at all.

Much as it is a pity to kill these elephants, allowing them to destroy crops which have been raised by hard labour, would mean in starvation and loss and death to the Colonists. (Pt. Pedro Cor.)

Ceylon's Message to Nations

Support for World Peace Conference

At an International Fellowship luncheon held at the Galle Face Hotel, it was unanimously resolved to send the following message from the people of Ceylon, to be broadcast among all nations, through the International Fellowship Reconciliation head-quarters in Great Britain:—

"We, the people of Ceylon, extend the right hand of fellowship to our sisters and brothers of all nations and request them to unite with us in building bridges of understanding across the chasms of prejudice and realise universal peace and brotherhood through mutual appreciation between classes, conditions and cultures.

"Ceylon invites all peace lovers of all nations to participate in the forthcoming All Asiatic Conference, to usher in the new age of world peace and international fellowship to be held on May 11th, 12th and 13th.

"The aim of this conference is to unite the peace loving nations of Asia to give their whole-hearted support to Mr. George Landbury and the I. F. O. R. in their efforts to summon a World Peace Conference to solve the urgent problems facing humanity today."

This message is signed on behalf of "The New Group of World Servers", by Mrs. Florence E. Collins, Mrs. Agnes W. Marshall, Mrs. E. L. F. de Soysa, Mrs. Massie de Silva, Mrs. Marie Bennet, Mrs. K. M. B. Windus, Mrs. J. W. Wooman, Dr. M. W. M. de Silva, Dr. U. P. Wirawarna, Messrs. D. C. R. Gunawardana, A. W. H. Abeysundera, W. D. Fernando, J. W. Aiyadurai, Evan Ediriweera and Darell Peiris.

WORLD WAR THIS MONTH

Indian Astrologer's Prediction

Karachi, Monday.

Startling predictions that Germany will come out with greater territorial gain at the end of two years of bitter war, that France will suffer heavily, and that the Japanese will make heavy inroads into Russian territory, are contained in the prophecy of a well-known astrologer, Pandit M. S. Sharma, of Karachi.

According to Pandit Sharma, the war star begins to show its influence from April 1939, the three most dangerous months being up to June.

Seven big countries will be involved in the destructive armageddon, three on one side and four on the other.

The war, which is inevitable, shows no tendency towards an end for a couple of years. America will join England, France and Russia, not in the beginning, but after some months.

Is Conversion Alien to the Spirit Of Hinduism ?

(Continued from Page 1)

of Hinduism and were absorbed into it.

Conversion Of The Scythians And Hunas

There is similar historical evidence to show that other foreign tribes were also gradually absorbed. Shodas, the Scythian king of Mathura of the first century A. D., is known to have had a Brahmana priest. Wima Kadphises, the famous Kushana ruler, who had conquered a greater part of northern India, describes himself on his coins as a devout follower of Shiva and puts, naturally enough, the image of his deity on the reverse of his coins. It is interesting to note that no other deity but Shiva ever appears on his coinage. The Scythian house in Kathiawar which was ruling there from c. 120 to 395 V. D., were Shaiva in its religious persuasion and a great patron of Sanskrit language and culture. Kanishka, the famous Kushana emperor, was a Buddhist. The huge Huna hordes that inundated northern India during 450-600 A. D. were all absorbed into Hinduism; their last great emperor, Mihirakula, never bowed his head, to quote the words of a contemporary inscription, before anybody but Sthanu or Shiva.

Hinduisation of Indian Archipelago

In the early centuries of the Christian era, the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, etc., were colonised by the Hindus and Buddhists and the native inhabitants were converted to their own faiths. A sacrificial pillar commemorating a Vedic sacrifice performed by a convert in Borneo has been recovered.

Conversion in the Muslim Period

This practice of converting non-Hindus to the Hindu fold was prevalent at the time of Muslim invasions, but Hinduism could not successfully put it into practice and absorb the new invaders. There were various reasons for it. In the first place the Muslims had, unlike the earlier invaders, a definite creed of their own, to which they were passionately wedded. Nothing could dislodge their faith in Alla, Mohammed and the Koran. They were not prepared to recognise any one else but Mohammed as the Prophet of God. An effort to identify Rama and Rahim could not therefore succeed. Secondly, they were beef-eaters and the Hindus intensely revered the cow. Thirdly, they were idol-breakers and the Hindus had at this time become intense idol-worshippers. It was therefore found impossible to effect a synthesis of Hinduism and Islam. Caste system had by this time become rigid, and even supposing some Muslims had desired to enter the Hindu fold, it would have become impossible to assign them a proper place in the Hindu social structure.

Reconversion Permitted by Shastras

Absorption of the Muslim in-

vaders within its own fold was given up by Hinduism as an impossible task. But for several centuries it used to make serious efforts to reconvert such Hindus as had embraced Islam through force or fraud or temptation. The problem of reconversion first arose in Sindh in an acute form in the eighth century when that province was captured by the Arabs at that time. Contemporary Hindu thinkers gave their serious attention to the problem, and under the leadership of Devala, they composed a new Smriti to meet the new situation, which boldly declared that even women, who had conceived as a result of conversion or criminal assault, could be admitted back into their old religion. The Agnipurana also permits reconversion irrespective of the time that may have elapsed since conversion.

Was Reconversion A Reality?

It may be argued that these authorities may have permitted reconversion, but society may not have followed the advice. There is, however, clear evidence to show that such was not the case. Al Biladuri, a Muslim historian of Sindh, admits that when the Muslim rule in the province received a setback towards the end of the eighth century most of the Muslim converts again became Hindus. A grandson of king Jaipal of the Punjab, who was taken with him as a hostage by Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, found the temptation of embracing Islam and accepting the governorship of a city as a reward too great. He was converted as Nawas Shah and sent back to the Punjab as a governor of a district. When he was once more among his co-religionists, remorse overtook him and he returned to his old religion. When the Sultan learnt, to quote the words of a Muslim contemporary historian, 'that he had thrown off the slough of Islam and held conversations with the chiefs of idolatry respecting the casting off of the firm rope of Islam found his neck, he went swifter than wind and turned out Nawas Shah from the government.' There is therefore evidence to show that the views of Devala and Agnipurana that persons converted can be admitted back into Hinduism were followed by society down to the tenth century A. D.

Growing Opposition to Reconversion

In the orthodox circles however, the opinion was gradually gaining ground that converts should not be readmitted. Alberuni who was staying in India in the eleventh century, made careful enquiries and learnt that Brahmanas were opposed to reconversion, while the rest of the society was in favour of the practice. The chief difficulty was about assigning a caste to the reconvert. Public opinion therefore was becoming more and more unfavourable towards the practice. Jeria and Malkana Rajputs could not return to the Hindu fold in spite of their keen desire to do so. The Hindus, forcibly converted by Tippu Sultan, did not succeed in their frantic efforts to be read-

THE ROMANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

(Continued from page 2)

of treatment was vilified, and misrepresented. The overwhelmingly increasing number of cures however broke the force of the opposition. Today the institutes where this treatment is given to those who have been bitten by rabid dogs are called Pasteur Institutes. The French honour Pasteur as the greatest of their country-men. They consider the great Napoleon as only second to Pasteur. He died at the age of 73. When his remains were interred at the Institute which bears his name, the French Minister of Education delivered an eloquent panegyric. A few lines from that panegyric will bear repetition: "As at the tombs of saints where people saw prodigies accomplished, so that of Pasteur will be enriched by a halo of miracles. At every discovery beneficial to mankind, at every ray of scientific glory which will be added to the aureole of France, the gratitude of the country and of the world will flow to this building henceforth august in the annals of science, as to the source of ulterior progress."

mitted to their old fold; they had to remain as a separate caste.

17th and 18th Century

Instances of Reconversion

It should not be however supposed that all sections of the Hindu society had acquiesced in the view that reconversion should be given up. Narhar Narlekar, a Maratha Brahman, was taken captive and converted at the battle of Panipat. He could effect his escape only after twelve years. In spite of this long time that elapsed since his conversion, the orthodox Brahmanas of Pratishtan or Paithan, which is known as the Kasi of South India, voted for his reconversion in 1772 A. D. The great Shivaji reconverted a Sardar of the Nimbalkar family and proved the sincerity of his conviction by marrying his own daughter to him. The Rajas of Tanjore followed the policy of their enlightened and distinguished ancestor, and, in order to counteract the conversion activity of the Jesuits, decreed that all converts to Christianity would forfeit their property unless they returned to their old fold before a certain date. Manuci states that as a result of this order most of the converts once more became Hindus.

Conclusion

The above survey will show that conversion and reconversion are not alien to the spirit of Hinduism; both were practised by it till quite recent times. Growing rigidity of the caste system and incapacity of the medieval leaders of society to realise the needs of the time are mainly responsible for the discontinuance of the practice. As Alberuni has observed, it was only the stupidity of Hindu society that frowned the practice out of existence. *We cleanse, but never amputate, a part of our body that has been soiled. It is therefore but in the fitness of things that those who genuinely desire to accept Hindu religion or return to it culture and religion are not opposed to such a course.*

(Prabuddha Bharata)

POPE PLEADS FOR PEACE

Fidelity to the Pledged Word

Vatican city, Sunday.

The Pope, making a short broadcast of his peace speech at Easter Mass at St. Peter's this morning, said:

"A sense of restlessness and discontent agitates the souls of men, almost as if we have worse ways.

"In truth there cannot exist tranquility and order, which constitutes peace, when even sons of the same land are divided by strife and clashing parties and interests. When many are without employment and are bereft of the necessities of life, they become an easy prey to subversive doctrines and organisations and there cannot be peace.

"There can be no peace if between the nations there is lacking

that mutual understanding which alone encourages the ideal of peoples proceeding along the way of civil progress, nor can it exist if solemnly sanctioned parts and the plighted word have lost that security and value which is an indispensable basis for reciprocal confidence and without which ardently-desired disarmament, material and moral, will become each passing day less possible of realisation."

The remedy against such great evils, the Pope declared, is the entry into the souls of men of Christ, in Whom peace and justice embrace and in Whom is the fruit of justice and peace.

Only thus, concluded His Holiness can they return to the way of mutual and friendly understanding where just interests are evaluated by all with good-will and appreciation, where there are unshirking sacrifices for the good of the human family and where there is the reign of supreme goodwill and exemplary fidelity to the pledged word.

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